

REMARKS

The above amendments to claim 21 add the recitation of a “frame” and further recite that the case of the clutch retaining the slider is fixed to the frame of the webbing take-up device.

While column 11, lines 10-27 of the Mori ‘284 patent (corresponding to paragraph [0054] of the Japanese ‘782 patent) discloses a webbing retractor having a lock mechanism 38 disposed on a frame 12, the case 40 of this lock mechanism 38 contains only the lock plate 42, an unnumbered inertial plate, and the accelerometer of the mechanism 38. In contrast to the claimed invention, the clutch 90 of the lock mechanism 38 is **not** contained in the case 40 of the lock mechanism 38, as disclosed in column 12, lines 56 to 60 of the Mori ‘284 patent (corresponding to paragraph [0064] of the Japanese ‘782 patent), and shown in Fig. 1. Instead the clutch 90 is provided at the radial direction side of a gear 62, that is, at the **opposite side** of the lock mechanism 38 with respect to the frame 12. Accordingly, the Mori ‘284 patent neither discloses nor suggests the recited clutch having “a case that is fixed to the frame,...” Neither does the Mori ‘284 patent disclose the recited “sliders that are configured to be relatively movable within a predetermined range with respect to the rotating body as a result of being retained in the case by frictional force,...” By contrast, as disclosed in the Mori ‘284 patent, the blocks 146 (the base portion 142 of the rotating disc 140) “are integrally connected to the attachment pieces 172 of the friction ring 170 by fasteners such as screws or the like,...” (see column 17, lines 26-28 and Figure 4). Finally, the Mori ‘284 patent does not disclose that the pawl 130 (which the Examiner equates to the recited “lock bar” of the present invention) is urged to the direction in which the pawl 130 is at any time engaged with the adaptor 112 (which the Examiner equates to the recited ratchet of the present invention). Hence the Mori ‘284 patent neither discloses nor suggests the recited “lock bars that are disposed on the rotating body, [and] are always biased in a direction in which the lock bars engage with the ratchet,...” For these three reasons, amended claim 21 is clearly patentable over the Mori ‘284 patent (and corresponding Japanese ‘782 patent).

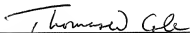
Claims 22-29 are each patentable not only by virtue of their dependency on claim 21, but for their recitation of additional mechanical features that are not remotely hinted at in the Mori JP 2004-42782 patent document.

Claims 30-33 have been cancelled, and hence require no further discussion.

Now that all of the claims are believed to be allowable, the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability is hereby earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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